

Message Text

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ACTION EB-07

INFO OCT-01 AF-08 ARA-06 EUR-12 ISO-00 L-03 AGR-05 FRB-03

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EAGR, ETRD, EPAP, IV, GH, NI, GB, TO, CM, BR, UK

SUBJ: ABIDJAN MEETING OF AFRICAN COCOA PRODUCERS ALLIANCE

REF: ABIDJAN 7796

1. AS REPORTED REFTEL, GOIC HOSTED MINISTERIAL-LEVEL MEETING OF THE COCOA PRODUCERS ALLIANCE AUGUST 23-27. ALL MEMBERS WERE REPRESENTED EXCEPT GABON, WHICH WAS "INVOLUNTARILY ABSENT". BRAZIL SENT AN OBSERVER. REPRESENTATIVES OF AFRICAN MEMBERS OF THE ALLIANCE AT ABIDJAN MEETING SIGNED FINAL COMMUNIQUE IN WHICH ALL AGREED THAT MINIMUM PRICE IN 1975 INTERNATIONAL COCOA AGREEMENT WAS UNREALISTIC AND WOULD NOT ENCOURAGE INCREASED COCOA PRODUCTION. MINISTERS AGREED TO REQUEST INTERNATIONAL COCOA COUNCIL TO PROCEED AS SOON AS POSSIBLE, IN ANY CASE BEFORE SEPT. 30, 1977

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RPT 1977, TO REVISE PRICES SET BY NEW AGREEMENT.

COMMUNIQUE STATES THIS CONDITION WILL BE VITAL TO FUTURE OF NEW AGREEMENT. COMMUNIQUE ALSO SAYS THAT MINISTERS HAD "HARMONIZED" THE POSITIONS OF THEIR GOVERNMENTS REGARDING ENTRY INTO FORCE OF 1975 INTERNATIONAL COCOA AGREEMENT.

2. CHARGE AND E/C CHIEF CALLED ON MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE SAWADOGO SEPTEMBER 3 AND SOUGHT CLARIFICATION OF COMMUNIQUE AND OF GOIC POSITION. COMMUNIQUE SEEMED SOMEWHAT PUZZLING IN VIEW OF IVORY COAST'S PREVIOUS ADAMANT POSITION AGAINST SIGNING THE 1975 AGREEMENT. SAWADOGO SAID THAT MINISTERS AT THE MEETING HAD BEEN CONFRONTED BY TWO OPPOSING LEGAL JUDGMENTS AS TO THE VALIDITY OF THE 1972 AND 1975 AGREEMENTS. THERE WAS DIFFERENCE IN OPINION BETWEEN UNITED NATIONS AND ICCO LAWYERS AS TO WHETHER 1972 AGREEMENT WOULD REMAIN IN FORCE SHOULD THE 1975 AGREEMENT NOT BE ACCEPTED AND WHETHER THE INTERNATIONAL COCOA COUNCIL COULD CONTINUE TO OPERATE IN THE ABSENCE OF A NEW AGREEMENT. REPRESENTATIVES AT THE ABIDJAN MEETING HAD THEREFORE AGREED TO SIGN THE NEW COCOA AGREEMENT WITH THE FIRM STIPULATION THAT THE ECONOMIC CLAUSES (SAWADOGO PARTICULARLY MENTIONED BUFFER STOCKS) WOULD NOT BECOME OPERATIVE UNTIL SEPTEMBER 1977. COUNTRIES INVOLVED WOULD ACTIVELY SEEK RENEGOTIATION DURING FORTHCOMING YEAR.

3. SAWADOGO SAID HE MAY NOT BE ABLE TO ATTEND COCOA COUNCIL MEETING IN LONDON LATER THIS MONTH, ALTHOUGH GOIC WILL BE REPRESENTED. HE ASKED WHETHER IN VIEW OF FORTHCOMING U.S. ELECTIONS U.S. DELEGATION TO COCOA COUNCIL WOULD BE PREPARED FOR SERIOUS CONSIDERATION OF HOW COCOA AGREEMENT SHOULD BEST BE AMENDED. WE ASSURED HIM THAT U.S. DEL WOULD BE ENTIRELY READY FOR SUCH CONSIDERATIONS.

COOKE

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